

The Lost People of Valor

Part 1

Ivy

Ivy was a young girl who lived in Anacortes with her friends and family. Their village was in the region of Washington called the Puget Lowlands, where humans, some RainWings, and a lot of LeafWings lived in the forests. RainWings were dragons who could change the color of their scales, and their scales also reflected the dragons' emotions when not being controlled. LeafWings were green dragons who had beautiful wings shaped like leaves, and they sometimes had little brown or pink speckles. Fortunately, the dragons weren't much of a threat to humans, since they lived in the forests and almost never left. She lived in a village called Valor near Mount Erie, where her dad, Heath, was the leader. Ivy was out wingwatching with her friends, and she was sketching a beautiful LeafWing in her notebook. Wingwatchers were people who watched dragons up in the sky by climbing on trees, and they also created guides to dragons and drew sketches of dragons. They were specially trained to gaze at the sky and watch dragons, but they also knew what to do to be safe. Wingwatching was one of Ivy's favorite things to do.

Wait a second – is that a BLACK DRAGON?! Ivy had never seen a NightWing before. These dragons lived in the Okanogan highlands, and didn't really travel past the Cascades that much. It had silver scales scattered across its wings, like shimmering stars in the night sky. The dragon suddenly whooshed down only a few trees beside them, scanning the area as if it were looking for something. It probably smelled us, Ivy thought. Foxglove, Ivy, and Leaf rushed down to hide behind a huge boulder with trees surrounding it. Ivy's heart was pounding fast. *It won't find us.* "I think I hear it getting closer," Foxglove whispered. A couple minutes later, the black dragon was within sight again, and now that Ivy took a closer look, it looked really skinny. *It must be starving and desperate for food,* she thought. She heard Leaf yelp, and when she looked up, the dragon was right there, looking very relieved and hungry. Ivy, Foxglove, and Leaf bolted out of their hiding spot and rushed for the mountains. *I have never been this close to a dragon before, other than Sky. Now I realize that it's way more terrifying once I'm actually this close to a dragon. For some reason though... I feel a thrill inside me. How could I find this thrilling when I could get eaten any second now...?* The dragon was close behind them, but Ivy noticed it was slower than the

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mountain dragons from the Cascades. *Well, that's a relief. But it's still fast, so run for your life, Ivy!* Suddenly, the NightWing caught Ivy in his hands. *Ivy, think! How do I save myself?* Then she remembered, her handbag she always carried had a small defense sword. *Our swords aren't very strong when it comes to dragon scales, but if I aim it right for his snout...* She launched the sword at the dragon, and it went right into the night dragon's nostril. It roared, and staggered back, dropping Ivy. "Remember the small hole we dug up near that mountain once?" she yelled at Leaf and Foxglove, pointing at Mount Erie. "We can hide in their until the dragon goes away." They rushed toward the hole and hid inside it for like half an hour, and then Foxglove went outside to see if the dragon was gone. A couple minutes later, she came back and said, "It's gone, let's go home now, it's already past sunset."

Once Ivy was back in her village, she went to her room, where she found Daffodil waiting for her. "IVY!" she cried. "What?" Ivy said. "Violet disappeared! When we were eating lunch - she said was going to get more rice, and then she never came back. I looked for her everywhere! Her parents didn't know where she was either!" "We'll find her. She couldn't have gone too far. Let's double-check her house and then we'll search the whole village." Leaf had joined them to search for Violet, too. They searched and searched. A couple of hours passed, and the three were exhausted. "It's bedtime, but we still haven't found Violet," Daffodil said, crying. "We'll look more tomorrow," said Leaf. *I really hope we find her*, thought Ivy.

A few days passed, and they'd still not found Violet. Other people had also started disappearing from the village, which had gotten very concerning. Was there a kidnapper out there somewhere? What did they want from us? Her dad had said that no one would be allowed outside their homes until the he found out what was happening, and the food they needed would be delivered outside their doors. Only wingwatchers were allowed outside, but for a max of four hours. This was only because the they might be able to figure out what's happening and if it has anything to do with dragons.

Ivy, Leaf, Wren, and Daffodil were out wingwatching, when they heard something rustling. "What's that noise?" asked Leaf. They looked around, but there was nothing to be seen except hundreds of trees. "I don't know. Probably nothing," said Daffodil. Suddenly, something grabbed Ivy, and she started floating in thin air. "Uhhh, am I floating? Wren? Leaf? What's happening?!" "IVY! That's a RainWing! You're being carried away by a camouflaged RainWing!" Leaf cried. And then Ivy was hit by something like a

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little arrow, *oh it's a sleeping dart*, was her last thought before she fell into a deep sleep.

Part 2

Leaf

"NO! Ivy!" Leaf yelled. Suddenly, Leaf, Wren, and Daffodil got taken and were going along with the RainWing that had Ivy. *Luckily, they forgot to hit us with their sleeping darts*, Leaf thought. *Then we'll be able to find out what's happening.* An hour or so later, they landed in Mount Rainier National Park. The place was bustling with lots of green LeafWings. A few colorful RainWings here are there, too. The dragons dropped them in a large room made of leaves with no ceiling. Leaf realized they weren't the only ones there. They'd found all the missing people from the village!

"Violet!" Daffodil yelled. "Daffodil! Oh finally, you're here. I was wondering when they were going to get you and Ivy. I have so much to tell you all," said Violet. "Wren, you can understand dragons, right?" she asked. "Yes, I can. Which reminds me - when we got kidnapped, Sky was taking a little nap in his cave. He'll be worried about us disappearing." Wren said. Sky was Wren's little SkyWing friend whom she had found in the forest when she was seven. SkyWings were supposed to have fire and huge wings, but he didn't have fire. He was just really sweet and cared about Wren and the other villagers. Violet had told them how the LeafWings wanted to keep humans as pets or something, and they were running experiments on them like seeing what they like to eat, what they do, their everyday life, etc. *Well, we're just as smart and amazing as they are. They just don't realize that*, thought Leaf. "The LeafWings are probably going to come again in a bit to give us fruit, so you should probably talk to them, Wren." Violet said. "Oh, I will, and I'll tell them to STOP KIDNAPPING THE PEOPLE FROM OUR VILLAGE," replied Wren. "Did they see me as a threat? They hit me with one of their sleeping darts for some reason," said Ivy, waking up from her sleep. "Although I'm pretty sure they do that to visiting dragons, but I didn't know they would do that to us humans."

A few minutes later, a LeafWing came. She carried Wren, Leaf, Daffodil, Daffodil and Ivy away from the others, put them on a patch of grass, and growled something at them.

Part 3

Wren

"The other scavengers are so boring and uninteresting. We only found a few who actually have energy, so you bunch better be energetic." growled the LeafWing. "EXCUSE ME, WE JUST DON'T LIKE THAT YOU'RE KIDNAPPING PEOPLE FROM OUR VILLAGE AND TRYING TO MAKE THEM YOUR PETS," Wren yelled up at the LeafWing in Dragon, their language. The LeafWing looked shocked and said, "Did I imagine that? SUNDEW, am I hallucinating? Or is this scavenger talking to me?" "I'm talking to you! I learned Dragon thanks to my friend Sky, and by the way, WE ARE NOT PETS. LET US GO," Wren barked at the dragon. The other dragon named Sundew came flying and said to Wren, "How exactly are you talking? Did some dragon just teach you to make the right funny noises so you can yell nonsense at us? As far as I know, scavengers build clever things but the only thing they can say is squeak squeak and other random chatter." "Oh, well maybe that squeak and chatter is OUR LANGUAGE, did you think about that? For most of us, all we hear from you is roars and rumbles. Thanks to me, we learned that you dragons also have *your* very own language," Wren replied. "Oh. I never thought about that. I do have to be honest, though, your language just sounds like a whole bunch of nonsense chatter," said Sundew. "Oh, well, your language sounds like a whole bunch of nonsense growls!" Wren yelled.

The other LeafWing from earlier came up and said, "You guys are so clever and cute. Can we still please keep you as pets?? We'll treat you well and maybe also teach you Dragon, while we learn your language." "Hmm, well I do know someone who lives in the Columbia basin with a dragon, but I don't feel comfortable with the idea of our whole village living with you guys like it's completely normal and you never kidnapped us." Wren answered. "Let's make a deal," offered Sundew, "if there are any scavengers who want to try living with us, they can take vacations or visits to our forests, come whenever they want, and we'll give them an amazing experience of our home and treat them very well. And if there are people who don't want to visit us at all, that will be all right." "That doesn't sound too bad," said Wren, "but you have to stop calling us scavengers, please. We call ourselves humans, so if you could do that instead of calling us scavengers, that would be great, thank you very much." Wren explained everything that just happened to Ivy, and Ivy said she'll ask her dad if he wants to make this

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deal, which Wren translated for Sundew. "I'll tell Princess Hazel to ask Queen Sequoia about this, and then we'll meet again at this spot," said Sundew, "and I'll also get Willow and Mandrake to ride all of your people back to your village. They'll stay there so they can ride you five back here once Ivy's talked to her dad about the deal."

A few days later, they met up at the meeting spot and Ivy's dad had sent a petition about keeping the villagers safe and no more kidnapping them, so Queen Sequoia would have to sign it if people were going to go to the forests to live with the dragons. Queen Sequoia didn't have a problem with having a few humans living in the forest, so she signed it in the dragon letters. Heath wouldn't be able to read it, of course, but he'd know that it's Queen Sequoia's signature, so that was all that mattered. In the beginning, only a couple of people went on vacation to the forest, but when they came back, they said they liked the experience. Soon enough, there were many people who would go on vacation to the forests to explore and came back with remarkable stories to share. Some dragons even started exploring places that the humans built, like the Space Needle, Point Defiance Zoo, and other amazing public places in the Puget Lowlands. Wren's personal favorite was the Museum of Flight, considering that she loved flying on Sky's back. Ivy's favorite was the Seattle Art Museum, which wouldn't be too hard to imagine since Ivy spent all her free time drawing. Wren liked that the humans and dragons were living together, with no danger of the humans getting eaten. Even the schools in the area started taking children on field trips with some dragons that came along.

This was what Wren always wanted – harmony between the dragons and humans.